12. Contribution of Maharashtra in Freedom Struggle

13. Contribution of Assam in Freedom Struggle

14. Karmaveer Gauri Shankar Roy (S.V.)

15. Contribution of Kerala in Freedom Movement

16. Nehru through the eyes of Cartoonist.

[English]

STD/ISD/PCO in Delhi

*207. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private/Government STD/ISD/PCO booths in Delhi;

(b) the waiting list for allotment of these booths as on November, 1996;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared;

(d) whether the allotment is made strictly on eligibility;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Number of STD/ISD/PCO booths working in Delhi as on 31st October, 1996 is 5976.

(b) 773 applications for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO booths are pending.

(c) By March, 1997.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) STD/PCOs are allotted to educated unemployed persons. Minimum educational qualifications is Matric/ High School Pass for urban areas (8th Pass for rural areas). Preference is given to the following categories of persons:

1. Handicapped including blind persons.
2. SC/ST applicants.
3. Ex-Servicemen/War Widows.
4. Retired DOT employees or their dependants of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(f) Does Not arise.

Railway Line from Port Blair to Diglipur

*208. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has recently conducted a survey for the proposed railway line from Port Blair in South Andaman Islands to Diglipur in North Andamans Islands;

(b) If so, the length of the proposed railway line, its traffic potential and the estimated cost involved in its construction;

(c) whether the proposed Rail link will pose a serious threat to Andamans ecology and cause incalculable damage to Andamans environment; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) A survey has been taken up.

(b) Will be known after the survey is completed.

(c) and (d). The ecological and environmental aspects would be duly considered before taking up any rail link in the area.

[Translation]

Mini Satellite Connection for Bihar

*209 SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme was formulated for connecting four important places of tourist importance in Bihar with Mini-Satellite for providing better telephone service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether tenders have been invited to set up Tower in Netarhat;

(d) if so, the reasons for not setting up Tower so far; and

(e) whether Government propose to provide separate STD code for Netarhat?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme has been formulated using Multiple Channel Per Carrier-Very Small Aperture Satellite Termin (MCPC-VSAT) for providing long distance media to remote places for better telephone service.

(b) The following are four important places of tourist importance in Bihar where MCPC-VSAT has been planned :

1. Netarhat
2. Valmikinagar
3. Madhuban (Parasnath)
4. Raneshwar

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In the light of provision of Multi Channel Per Carrier-Very Small Aperture Satellite Termine (MCPC-VSAT) at Netarhat, Tower is not required.

(e) The alloted STD code for Netarhat is 06523.